

REMARKS - General

The claims under consideration, 1 – 3 and 5 - 20 have been amended to define the invention more particularly and distinctly so as to overcome the technical rejections and define the invention patentably over the prior art. Specifically, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to distinguish the present invention over the cited prior art. Claims 12, 13, and 16 have been canceled.

The Applicants submit that the amendments made herein were not made earlier in prosecution of the case owing to a failure to communicate adequately with the attorney of record on this case the nature of the preferred embodiment of the invention.


The Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-16 Under 35 U.S.C. 103, First Paragraph Overcome

In review of the Office Action of May 5, 2007, claims 1-3 and 5-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103, first paragraph, as being unpatentable over Hathaway in view other prior art. Hathaway was cited as having first and second handles, that in the specification of Hathaway, are defined as loops of flexible material. Hence claim 1 has been amended to more particularly define the invention over Hathaway by establishing handles that are “rod-like members of substantially circular cross-section formed from hard, substantially rigid material.” This is supported by the specification in the second paragraph of page 4 and with reference to Figures 4 and 7. All claims dependent on claim 1 are submitted to be patentable by virtue of the patentability of claim 1.

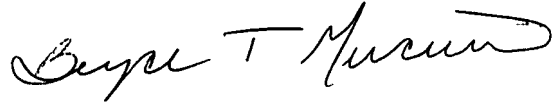
CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, applicants submit that the claims are now in proper form and that the claims define patentably over the prior art.

Very respectfully,



Kevin L. Mercuri



Bryce T. Mercuri

-----Applicants Pro Se-----

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Date: August 6, 2007

Inventor's Signature: Kevin L. Mercuri